

Weather or Not . . .

IN THIS EDITION

BY DON MORIN, DATA ACQUISITION PROGRAM MANAGER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Joe's Corner "November, 1999"	Page 2
Data is Valuable	Page 4
Helpful Form Reminders	Page 5
1999 Holm Award Winners	Page 6
Length of Service Awards	Page 7
Words from the Meteorologist in Charge	Page 9
Greetings from the COOP Management Team	Page 10

We're back with another edition of our special newsletter dedicated to you, the COOP observer. Inside you'll find the latest "Joe's Corner" article on interesting climate events in our area. This time Joe will tell you about November, 1999. How about winter weather and the dangers it can present in our day-to-day lives? Our own Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Todd Heitkamp, has once again supplied us with some special tips and explanations to help keep us safe until Spring. Check out the inserts—you may just want to post them on the "fridge." There's a little refresher on precipitation measurement, some tips on making entries on the WS Form

B-91 and an insert to use as an example. We also have some new pictures of 1999 Length of Service Award winners to share with you.

Our invitation for you to send us questions or contributions that we can use in this newsletter is still open. So go ahead and let us know what's on your mind. We'll look for

an "expert", or at least someone

then attempt to answer your question. One of our meteorologists is also an amateur astronomer. Anyone curious about the cosmos? We'll ask Mike Fuhs to point us toward the right constellation. If you have Internet access we invite you to check out our Web page. In addition to weather and climate data, there is information on astronomy courtesy of Mr. Fuhs. In fact this newsletter and all future newsletters will be posted to the office Web page. The Internet address is www.crh.noaa.gov/fsd.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, it will, no doubt, be colder and perhaps there will be some snow on the ground. It's the holiday season again in the northern plains. My wish is that the holidays will bring all of you joy and lasting happiness. I look forward to talking to you and seeing you again in the coming year. Thank you for being such an important part of our COOP program and thank you for allowing me the honor to work with you.

Joe's Corner

—By Joe Sheehan, Hydrometeorological Technician

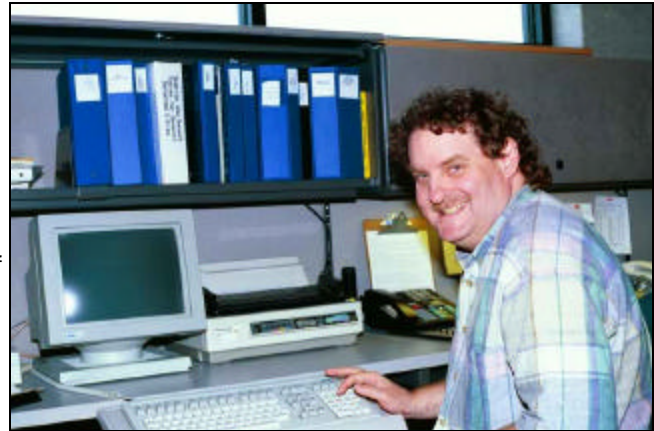
"November, 1999"

The month of November 1999 was unusually mild across the north central U.S. with temperatures averaging 8 to 10 degrees above normal. A fast west to east jet stream across the eastern Pacific into southern Canada kept the arctic air bottled up over-Canada. Also, persistent dry air in the lower and middle layers of the atmosphere kept skies clear much of the month which meant plenty of sun to help warm temperatures.

In Huron South Dakota, every day of the month had average temperatures that were above normal. In Sioux Falls South Dakota and Sioux City Iowa, only two days saw temperatures average below normal, on the 2nd and 3rd. In Mitchell South Dakota, only one day, November 2nd was below the daily normal.

It was also a very dry month across South Dakota with only a trace of precipitation reported in Aberdeen and 0.05 inches at both Huron and Sioux Falls. The continued lack of precipitation that began at the beginning of August, led to very dry vegetation. Several fires were reported across the region during October and November.

In Sioux Falls, the average temperature for the month of November 1999 was 42.1 degrees making it the warmest November on record. The previous warmest November had been 41.6 degrees set in 1899. The average daily maximum of 56.7 degrees in November 1999 smashed the previous record of 54.4 degrees set in 1899. The average daily minimum temperature of 27.4 degrees did not make the top ten list of warmest November minimums. The high temperature on the 8th of 81 degrees was the first recorded 80 degree day in the month of November since records began in the 1890s. The previous warmest November day in Sioux Falls had been 79 degrees set on November 4, 1909. Record high temperatures were set on four days during the month.



MR. JOE SHEEHAN

November 1999 Record High

81 degrees on 8th
73 degrees on 9th
68 degrees on 12th
79 degrees on 13th

Previous Record for Date

74 degrees in 1931
69 degrees in 1937
66 degrees in 1954 and 1971
69 degrees in 1981

Normal High for Date

48 degrees
47 degrees
45 degrees
45 degrees

In Huron, the average temperature for the month of November 1999 was 42.3 degrees breaking by more than a degree the previous warmest November of 41.0 degrees set in 1899. The average daily high temperature was 56.8 degrees and the average daily minimum temperature was 27.8 degrees. The high temperature of 86 degrees on the 8th is the first recorded occurrence of 80 degree heat since records began in the 1880s. The previous warmest November day in Huron was 79 degrees set on Novem-

(Continued on page 3)

Joe's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

ber 8, 1931. Record high temperatures were set on four days during the month.

<u>November 1999 Record High</u>	<u>Previous Record for Date</u>	<u>Normal High for Date</u>
72 degrees on 7 th	68 degrees in 1931	48 degrees
86 degrees on 8 th	79 degrees in 1931	47 degrees
71 degrees on 11 th	70 degrees in 1887	46 degrees
75 degrees on 13 th	68 degrees in 1981	44 degrees

In Sioux City, the average temperature for November 1999 was 44.2 degrees which broke the previous warmest November of 43.4 degrees set in 1899. The average daily maximum temperature was 58.1 degrees and the average daily minimum was 30.2 degrees. The high temperature of 81 degrees on the 8th equaled the warmest November day on the record books set on November 3, 1978. Record highs in Sioux City were broken or tied on three days during the month.

<u>November 1999 Record High</u>	<u>Previous Record for Date</u>	<u>Normal High for Date</u>
81 degrees on 8 th	78 degrees in 1931	51 degrees
73 degrees on 9 th	tied 73 degrees in 1937	50 degrees
78 degrees on 13 th	71 degrees in 1944	48 degrees

November 1999 statistics for South Dakota communities and including Sioux City, Iowa, follow...

<u>City</u>	<u>November 1999 Average Temperature</u>	<u>Departure from Normal</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Previous or Current Warmest November</u>
Rapid City	44.4 degrees	+ 9.6 degrees	unknown	unknown
Pierre	44.3 degrees	+10.2 degrees	unknown	unknown
Sioux City	44.2 degrees	+ 7.8 degrees	1 st warmest	43.4 in 1899
Mitchell	43.8 degrees	+ 9.7 degrees	unknown	unknown
Huron	42.3 degrees	+ 9.9 degrees	1 st warmest	41.0 in 1899
Sioux Falls	42.1 degrees	+ 9.1 degrees	1 st warmest	unknown
Watertown	39.7 degrees	+ 8.9 degrees	unknown	unknown
Aberdeen	38.7 degrees	+ 8.4 degrees	2 nd warmest	40.7 in 1923

Record warmth for both the day and month occurred on the 8th across much of South Dakota. Huron and Sioux Falls recorded their first 80 degree warmth for the month of November. The high temperature of 89 degrees in Kennebec, South Dakota is the warmest November reading ever recorded in the state. Some of the high temperatures from November 8, 1999, include the follow-

(Continued on page 4)

Joe's Corner

(Continued from page 3)

ing:...

<u>City</u>	<u>Temperature</u>	
Mobridge	76 degrees	
Aberdeen	77 degrees	
Watertown	77 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Sioux Falls	81 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Mitchell	82 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Rapid City	83 degrees	(also 83 degrees previous day and both are warmest November temperatures)
Huron	86 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Pierre	87 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Kennebec	89 degrees	(warmest November temperature)

\$ DATA IS VALUABLE \$

The sooner we can get it...the more it is worth...

By Don Morin, Data Acquisition Program Manager

Did you know that there is a great return on our investment in weather data? We as taxpayers provide ourselves and business a value added product that is greatly underestimated. Information that you help to gather and contribute to our nation's climate database is used in nearly all areas of commerce.

Information on atmospheric pressure is used by medical clinics and local hospitals. Detailed weather reports are

required in the travel industry, both surface and aviation. Other governmental agencies depend on weather data to carry out their missions.

Your Climate Data is just as sought after as the above mentioned reports traditionally provided by National Weather Service Offices across the country. Climate data has become the foundation that contractors use to determine where, when and how to build modern structures. Automobile testing facilities have

been located in areas where outdoor conditions can really put automobile engineering to a true test. Some companies use climate data as one criteria to decide where to locate. Private parties often consult the climate database when planning outdoor activities, such as vacations or weddings.

The uses for the data that you gather and send to us is growing constantly. Also growing is the need to have the information as soon as

(Continued on page 5)

\$ DATA IS VALUABLE \$. . .

(Continued from page 4)

possible. This is the reason that we encourage electronic reporting. By using a touch tone phone, which we will provide, your information becomes a part of our active communications system and is available across the nation in less than a few seconds. We can also provide computer software to do the same thing.

Interested in adding even more value to an already precious commodity? If you would like to know more about electronic reporting, please drop us a line or call.



HELPFUL FORM REMINDERS . . .

by Don Morin, Data Acquisition Program Manager

Please note the entries in the columns that you normally fill out. Proper entry is especially important when your forms reach the archive center in Asheville, North Carolina. An entry of zero is preferred in the precipitation columns as in the following examples...

<u>Rain, melted snow, etc.</u>	<u>Snow (snowfall), ice pellets, etc.</u>	<u>Snow Depth</u>
report to the nearest hundredth of an inch...	report to the nearest tenth of an inch...	report to the whole inch...
0.00	0.0	0
.03	0.3	3
1.05	1.5	15

Leading zeros are encouraged where decimals are used.

Temperatures should always be rounded to whole degrees.

Those who report electronically in addition to the B-91 Form will find this convention ensures the acceptance of your report by the ROSA computer.

Please remember that your data is needed as soon as possible. Forms should be mailed on the first of the month, whenever possible, to meet publishing deadlines.

As always if you have questions about any portion of the COOP program, please call us. Included as an attachment to this newsletter is an example of a properly completed WS Form B-91. You have made our COOP program the best it can be. Your dedication is inspiring.

1999 HOLM AWARD WINNERS

We are extremely fortunate to have the finest COOP observers in the country. It is our honor to announce the 1999 winners of the "John Campanius Holm" awards. Three outstanding observers were chosen to receive the second highest award presented in the National Weather Service COOP Program.

Herman Korthals of Platte, South Dakota

Radio Station KAYL of Storm Lake, Iowa

The City of Pickstown, South Dakota

The staff of KAYL Radio and Hermann Korthals are pictured below receiving their award. Our City of Pickstown observer will be presented the award shortly after the first of the year. Look for that picture in our next edition of your newsletter.

On behalf of our COOP Management Team congratulations to our Holm Award winners and thank you for making our program a great success.

Don Morin, Data Acquisition Program Manager

In honor of a 51 year tradition of excellence of weather reporting and service to the community of Storm Lake, Iowa radio station



KAYL General Manager Brad Sargent and Observer John Waters

accept the prestigious Holm Award from Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Meteorologist in Charge Greg Harmon. The award was presented at

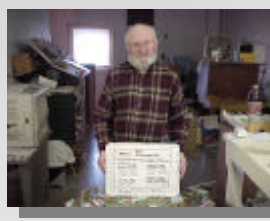
KAYL studios in Storm Lake, Iowa, in the presence of KAYL staff and NWS Sioux Falls

DAPM Don Morin, who nominated the station for the award.

Pictured: (L-R) Sioux Falls, South Dakota MIC Greg Harmon, COOP Observer John Waters and

KAYL General Manager Brad Sargent.

(Photo by...DAPM Don Morin, NWS, Sioux Falls, SD)



Herman Korthals of Platte, South Dakota

has kept the weather watch

going for 42 years. Here he is pictured accepting his Holm Award from

Sioux Falls Meteorologist in Charge Greg Harmon (right) and Data

Acquisition Program Manager Don Morin (left). Family and friends gathered at the offices of the Platte Enterprise to

help Mr. Korthals celebrate.

Length of Service Awards for 1999



Accepting a **20 year Length of Service award** are **Judy and Mark Wehrspann**.

The Wehrspann's oversee the Lakeside Laboratory Facility
near Milford, Iowa.

MIT Tim Masters and DAPM Don Morin (not pictured) of
NWFO Sioux Falls, South Dakota, presented the award.



A **20 year Length of Service award** was accepted by **Jim Schnaight**, Menno,
South Dakota. CHMT Don Miller and DAPM Don Morin of NWFO Sioux Falls,
South Dakota, presented the award, honoring Mr. Schnaight for his long
record of dedication to the COOP program.



Just moments before officiating at a local 4-H cattle show, **Ed Gray** took
a moment to accept his **10 year Length of Service award** for his observing
near Salem, South Dakota. Award was presented by CHMT Don Miller and
DAPM Don Morin of WFO Sioux Falls, South Dakota (not pictured).



John and Ann Tracy do a great job reading the Perry Creek river gage and tracking daily
precipitation in Sioux City, Iowa. Here they are accepting **10 year Length of Service
awards** honoring their dedication to the COOP program. Awards were presented by

DAPM Don Morin from

NWFO Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

(Pictured L-R: DAPM Don Morin, John Tracy, Ann Tracy)

Length of Service Awards for 1999 (continued) . . .



For **30 years** brothers **Don and Clarence Seedorf** have kept a close watch on the weather on their farm near Wentworth, South Dakota. (Pictured L-R; Don Seedorf, Clarence Seedorf). Don is also a self styled poet and often includes a copy of his prose and commentary with the monthly report sent to

WFO Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Award was presented by MIT Tim Masters (not pictured).



John Wirkler, dedicated gage reader of the Little Sioux River in northwest Iowa, accepting his **15 year Length of Service award**. Mr. Wirkler also oversees the Spencer 1N COOP site, which has been in partnership with the NWS for more than 50 years! Award presented by NWFO Sioux Falls, SD DAPM Don Morin.

DID YOU KNOW??

Washta, Iowa, is known as the **coldest** spot in Iowa.



Recently, MIT Tim Masters and DAPM Don Morin installed a new MMTS at the home of the new Washta observer **Dan Zupp**. Mr. Zupp (picture not available) is looking forward to tracking the temperatures and continuing the documentation the local temperature anomalies.

(Picture by DAPM Don Morin, WFO Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

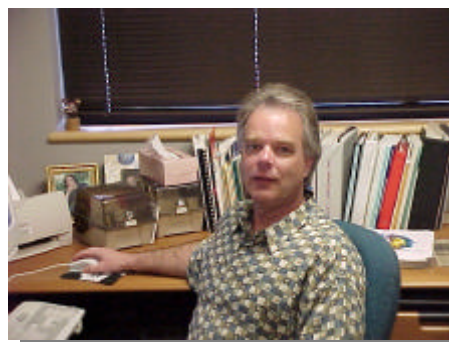
WORDS from the METEOROLOGIST IN CHARGE

Before long, the excitement of the New Year will be made special this year by the arrival of a new millennium. The staff at National Weather Service Sioux Falls extends to all our cooperative observers the warmest of Holiday greetings.

As we close out the 20th century, it seems appropriate to reflect back a bit on the National Weather Service Cooperative Program for our area. Some of the South Dakota old-time weather observers may remember Richard Cook, Ralph Hackman, and Bob Johnson. These gentlemen were the field managers of the South Dakota cooperative network during the early years, dating back to 1951. More recently, Dave Olkiewicz became friends with cooperative observers across South Dakota during his 12 year tenure as the South Dakota Cooperative Program Manager (CPM), concluding with his retirement in late 1997. Besides being a good friend to many observers, Dave left his legacy by helping the staffs at NWS Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, and Rapid City, assume the CPM duties for their respective forecast and warning areas. It was in October 1996, that NWS Sioux Falls assumed the cooperative program for southwest Minnesota, northwest Iowa and extreme northeast Nebraska and relinquished parts of South Dakota to NWS Aberdeen and Rapid City. Cooperative program leadership at NWS Sioux Falls is now a primary focus of Data and Acquisition Manager Don Morin and his able staff of five hydro-meteorological technicians. Throughout the years and especially in the 1990s, many cooperative program changes occurred within the NWS, but one constant has remained. That constant is the interest and personal dedication of every cooperative observer in our area and throughout the Nation. Did you know there are over 11,000 cooperative weather observers across the United States? It's the information from this cadre of local volunteers that help create the climate history of our Nation. For this, you can each be proud.

Did you also know that back in 1960 the National Weather Service created a two-tier national recognition program specifically to honor the long-term efforts of the best cooperative observers from across the Nation. Twenty-five or fewer observers

throughout the Country are honored each year with the John Campanius "Holm" Award. The most prestigious cooperative award of all, the Thomas "Jefferson" Award is given to fewer than a handful of recipients each year, and in some



*Meteorologist in Charge
Greg Harmon*

years there are no Jefferson award winners at all. The Jefferson and Holm award winners from South Dakota and our surrounding areas of southwest Minnesota, northwest Iowa, and extreme northeast Nebraska are an impressive list of observers dating back to 1960. These observers are an example of the high caliber weather folks NWS Sioux Falls has the pleasure of working with day in and day out. We wish to recognize Albert Gull of Edgemont, South Dakota (NWS Rapid City area) as a 1999 Jefferson Award winner, and KAYL Radio of Storm Lake, Iowa; the City of Pickstown, South Dakota; and Herman Korthals of Platte, South Dakota, as 1999 Holm Award winners. Congratulations to these outstanding cooperative observers. A complete list of Jefferson and Holm Award winners, dating back to 1960, for the 14 state Central Region is included with this newsletter. As we rapidly approach a new century, you as weather observers can reflect back on the exciting Northern Plains weather you helped document, and please know your weather records are and will continue to be an important part of our Nation's heritage and storied past.

On behalf of the NWS Sioux Falls staff, we again extend to our valued cooperative weather observers a most joyous **Christmas and Happy New Year.**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



--YOUR COOP MANAGEMENT TEAM --

Pictured L-R are *Joe Sheehan,*
Hal Storey, Don Miller, Mike Buss and
Tim Masters
Seated in the front is
Don Morin.